



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

TOP SECRET

## SPOT COMMENTARY

28 February 1991  
1500 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #615

### Military Developments

#### All Quiet on the Iraqi Front

There has been no significant activity involving Iraqi military forces since the declaration of the cease-fire. Press reports indicate some small Iraqi units did exchange fire with coalition forces; however, these were believed to be isolated remnants who were unaware of the cease-fire.

### Political Developments

#### Embassies Reopening in Kuwait

Some embassies in Kuwait City have already reopened, and many countries plan to re-establish their diplomatic missions there within the next few days,

- o European Community: The British Ambassador and a new French Ambassador are expected to return today, while the Canadian mission is open under local staff. The Spanish

TOP SECRET

Approved for Release

~~TOP SECRET~~

Ambassador and Charge plan to return to Kuwait in the next few days.

- o Middle East/Africa: The UAE and Egyptian Ambassadors will arrive in Kuwait in the next few days, and Tunisia intends to reopen its embassy "as soon as possible."
- o Other Countries: Japan, Turkey, India, and Romania also hope to reopen their missions as soon as possible.

#### Cholera and Typhoid Epidemics May Threaten Some Areas in Iraq

According to press, cholera and typhoid epidemics, and other diarrheal diseases threaten Baghdad because the public has been forced to drink water from unsanitary sources. Destruction of power stations and water pumping stations has caused an acute shortage of clean water since the start of the war; the shortage probably is aggravated by the shutdown of sewage treatment and other waste disposal systems. Iraqi public health officials have stated that thousands of people have shown the first symptoms of cholera and that deaths have been reportedly linked to cholera and typhoid in various regions of Iraq, although they could not provide a toll.

On 21 February, officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) indicated they would send specialists and emergency health materials to alleviate the risk of epidemics in Iraq. According to press, the ICRC is setting up sanitary operations in Baghdad, and has sent water purification equipment there. Additionally, some 150 doctors from the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have begun arriving in Iraq to supervise medical work.

On 23 February, World Health Organization officials who had been to Baghdad said the lack of safe water and sanitation posed an epidemic threat. The capacity of the Iraqi medical care system to respond to an epidemic undoubtedly has been degraded by shortages of power, water, medical supplies and the task of caring for war injuries.

2  
~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

# **EC Peace Plans**

EC President Jacques Poos today welcomed the end of hostilities in the Gulf and said the EC must help establish peace and security in the region, according to press. A spokesman said the EC will push ahead quickly with diplomatic initiatives. EC foreign ministers have agreed to discuss a peace plan for the Middle East with leaders of the Maghreb countries and Syria.

~~TOP SECRET~~